

DEPARTMENT OF WOMAN'S WORK

The Department of Woman's Work began in a modest way in September, 1916, in a small improvised workroom in Christ Church Parish House, to make supplies for the troops stationed on the Mexican border. Its equipment consisted of a small quantity of gauze and a sample box of surgical dressings. The first expansion came in February, 1917, when the workroom was moved to the Woman's Club. With the declaration of war by the United States against Germany, the work of this department took on new significance. Stimulus was given to it during the summer by the organization of classes in surgical dressings; interest became more general, the number of workers increased rapidly, and by the time winter set in the department had outgrown both its quarters and its organization.

New quarters were found in the old Mineralogy Room of the State Museum, the use of which was generously donated by the State Department of Agriculture. Work was begun at once to divide the room into executive offices and a model workroom equipped with every necessary facility for storing material, making surgical dressings, hospital garments, and other articles, and for packing and shipping. All expenses in connection with this work were borne by the State Department of Agriculture. The workroom was opened December 7th, and from that time until the close of the war was open for work every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Once during the influenza epidemic it was open on Sunday, October 13, 1918, when 420 bed shirts were made for sick soldiers at Camp Polk, and delivered Monday afternoon.

The activities of the department of Woman's Work were now put upon a more business-like basis and better organized than they had hitherto been; a stricter supervision was exercised over the workers and their work; no uncredited person was allowed in the workroom, and all work was done under rigidly observed sanitary regulations. The personnel of the organization of this department, whose work reflected so much credit on the Chapter, was as follows:

Chairman

Mrs. Charles M. Busbee, from May, 1917, to November, 1917.
Mrs. L. A. Mahler, from November, 1917, to February, 1919.
Miss Sarah Cheshire, from February, 1919.